

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Your Summer

By Walter E. Myer

VACATION time is approaching. In many schools it is already here. In others it is just around the corner. Soon the classroom doors will be closed and millions of students will be enjoying the long respite from school activities which tradition provides.

But history in its relentless march knows no vacation. Your formal studies of world affairs are over for a while, but the fateful procession of events moves on. While the school doors are closing the foreign ministers of great nations meet to confer about problems of great difficulty and importance. Decisions will be made this summer, and upon the wisdom of these decisions the peace of the world may depend.

National policies will be framed during the summer months by the men we have named to guide our destinies through a hard and trying time. Public opinion will be taking form. Active citizens will be busy, exerting unceasing influence on the formulation of policies and on the course of history.

Your classes will not be in session this summer to observe, to study, and to influence the unending flow of historic events—but that does not condemn you to inactivity. You are free to go on with your work as citizens. As a matter of fact, you have more free time than you have had before to use in learning about the problems of the hour, and to increase your knowledge and influence through your own studies.

Whether or not your schools are closed, your libraries are open. You can spend a reasonable amount of your time in reading, in listening to the radio, in discussions with your friends. You can, day by day, improve the quality of your citizenship.

I say that you may spend a reasonable time in such studies, for nothing more should be asked of you. You should spend part of your vacation time in pleasurable reading, in sports, in following your hobbies, in recreation, in studying vocational opportunities.

Some time should be given to recreation which will contribute to personal health and happiness. You may find relief from the hard strain of school studies. It is important for you to use your summer in such a way that you will return to school next fall refreshed and enthusiastic.

But remember that your studies of public problems should not be interrupted during the summer months. This is a time when the citizens of every democracy, our own included, should be active and alert. This is not a time for either pessimism or heedless optimism.

Foreign Minister Bevin of Great Britain says there is a real chance for a lasting peace. This priceless achievement will not come automatically, he says, but it may be realized through the adoption of wise and patient policies by the democratic nations.

Here is a goal worth working for, but it can be realized only if all the people of the democratic nations are on the job.



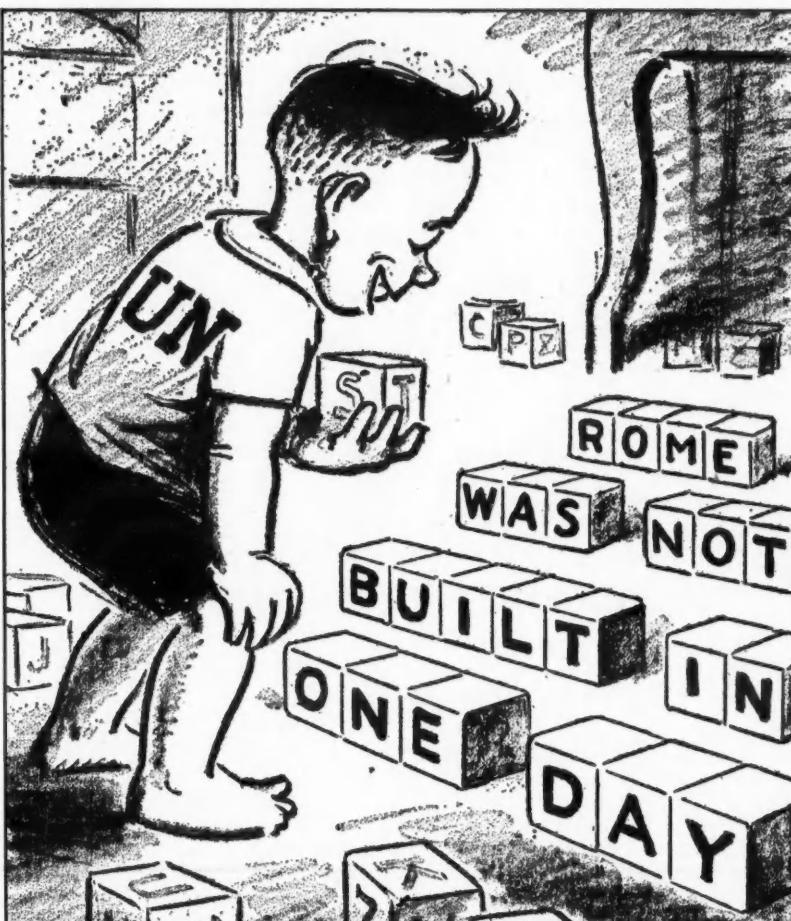
Walter E. Myer

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YOUNG, but growing—

KNOTT IN DALLAS MORNING NEWS

UN Accomplishments

Organization Has Suffered Setbacks, but Many Believe that, Through It, Nations Can Still Find Way to Peace

FOUR years ago, when the United Nations was being formed, people of all countries viewed the new organization with hope and confidence. Having been through several years of terrible war, humanity everywhere felt that peace must be made secure by international cooperation through some kind of world association.

Today there is still a fervent hope that the UN will fulfill the universal desire for peace. While it has failed to solve most of the big international conflicts which have arisen since the end of the war, it has achieved some successes and appears to be laying the groundwork for a strong organization in the future.

One of its latest political accomplishments was in helping to end the war over Palestine. Furthermore, conversations between U. S. and Russian representatives in the UN led to the lifting of the Berlin blockade and to the current Paris conference on Germany.

These and other recent events seem to indicate that the United Nations is furnishing a meeting place where nations are getting together to iron out their differences. So long as nations continue to work through this world organization, the hope of continued peace will remain alive.

The principal conflicts that have

threatened the existence of the United Nations have taken place in the Security Council and in the General Assembly. It is in these two bodies that the "cold war" between East and West has often prevented positive action. Behind the scenes, though, in what are called the specialized agencies and in other units of the UN, a surprising amount of work has been accomplished.

These smaller agencies concentrate primarily on the economic and social problems that affect the way people in all parts of the world live. What these groups do will not immediately determine whether or not the world is to have peace. But their accomplishments over a long period of time can do much to remove the conditions that often lead to war—conditions such as poverty and stagnation of trade.

Some of these agencies are independent, and work with the UN through its Economic and Social Council. Many of the agencies, however, are branches of the United Nations. We shall describe some of their accomplishments in the remainder of this article:

Commission on Human Rights. This group's chief duty is to study the state of individual freedom through

(Concluded on page 2)

U. S. Congress Moves Slowly

Work Schedule for Legislators Will Be Heavy During the Rest of the Session

ALTHOUGH the Democratic party has a majority in each house of Congress, President Truman is finding it extremely difficult to get the lawmakers' approval on measures that he favors. Many Democratic Senators and Representatives, especially those from Southern states, have joined Republicans in a "coalition" against the President.

The strength of this "coalition" varies from time to time, but on many occasions it controls a majority of the Congressional votes. Mr. Truman is, therefore, having the same kind of trouble that he had with the Democratic Congress of 1945 and 1946, and that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had in earlier years. Almost none of the laws which President Truman requested at the beginning of this year's session have been passed, although several of his proposed measures are being considered in House and Senate committees.

The lawmakers are expected to close their present meeting at about the end of July, but may return to work sometime in the fall. Described in the following paragraphs is the action that this Congress has, as we go to press, taken on leading issues:

European Recovery Program. Early this year President Truman asked Congress for a grant of more than 5½ billion dollars to pay the expenses of the Recovery Program until June 1950. This was to be in addition to the sum of more than 5 billion dollars which America has already spent on the huge aid program. There is not a great deal of outright Congressional opposition to our continuing the Recovery Program, but many lawmakers want to appropriate less money than the President asked.

A bill passed in April, authorizing the United States to spend almost

(Concluded on page 6)



SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
Interested spectator



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN recently concluded its session at Flushing, New York. The Assembly is sometimes called the "town meeting of the world."

Accomplishments of the UN's Special Agencies

(Concluded from page 1)

out the world and to make recommendations concerning the problem to the General Assembly. It has drawn up a "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" which is described as "a global Magna Carta." The General Assembly has approved the Declaration, and work has been started on drawing up a treaty to include the ideas established by the Declaration.

If a certain number of nations approve it, the treaty will have the effect of international law, and a special agency may be formed to enforce its provisions. The Human Rights Declaration is based on the principle that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity," and it calls for the nations to grant their peoples the right to life, liberty, and personal and economic security.

Economic Commission for Europe. As its name indicates, this agency concentrates upon problems that confront the nations of the European continent. Its chief work up to the present time has been in trying to develop trade between the countries of Eastern and Western Europe.

Barriers to such trade have arisen from the conflict between the Communist-dominated countries and the nations of the West. But the Economic Commission for Europe, through a series of conferences, has arranged for some exchange of products between the two areas.

World Health Organization. This is one of the busiest of the UN's specialized agencies. It helped to stop a serious cholera epidemic in Egypt. It has reduced the prevalence of malaria in Greece. And it has established medical facilities in such backward countries as Ethiopia—a nation which, until recently, had only one native physician.

Perhaps the largest job yet under-

taken by the organization is that of vaccinating 50 million children in Europe with a substance that may prevent their getting tuberculosis.

Food and Agriculture Organization. This agency has been responsible for much of the progress made since the war in increasing agricultural production. Conferences have been held where the obstacles to farm production have been discussed. A staff of experts has been employed to advise member nations on agricultural problems, and to develop means for combating diseases that destroy animals and plants.

An outstanding example of the organization's work is the current campaign being waged against rinderpest, a disease that kills millions of cattle in Asia and Africa each year. Already a million head of cattle and buffalo have been inoculated against the disease, and another 15 million may be immunized by the end of this year.

The recent wheat conference held in Washington, D. C., was sponsored by this organization. At that meeting, plans were made for regulating the price of wheat and for assuring sufficient production of the grain to meet the world's needs.

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Many persons believe this will eventually prove to be one of the most important of the UN's specialized agencies. Its chief task is to promote understanding and good will among the peoples of different nations.

To accomplish this goal the organization is trying to extend education to backward regions of the world, and to encourage an exchange of information among nations.

The organization is also helping to restore the educational systems of

Europe. It has provided funds for new school buildings and for the purchase of equipment and textbooks. It has conducted international volunteer work camps throughout Europe. Young people from many nations have come to these camps to study and work together.

International Trade Organization. This organization was set up at a conference held in Havana late in 1947. It has not yet started on the major problems that have been assigned to it. As the name indicates, the organization will seek to stimulate trade among nations.

It is expected to encourage member nations to do away with barriers such as tariffs and import quotas which limit the goods that are bought from other countries. It will also attempt to find markets for nations that have surpluses at any given time.

Genocide Committee of the Economic and Social Council. This committee has drawn up an agreement under which it will be a crime against international law for any government to destroy groups of people for religious, racial, or national reasons. The agreement has not yet taken effect, and it will not do so until 20 members of the UN have ratified it.

The genocide pact grew out of the large-scale destruction of peoples that took place before World War II and during the conflict. Six million Jews and countless numbers of Poles were killed by the Nazis simply because of their religion and nationality.

(Genocide is a new word which means the crime of exterminating large masses of peoples because of their race, religion, or nationality.)

In addition to the organizations discussed above, there are many other commissions and agencies that work with the UN. The International Civil

Aviation Organization deals with questions that arise in connection with aeronautics. The International Children's Emergency Fund is a special commission set up to raise money to help homeless and poverty-stricken children in the war-torn countries of Europe and Asia.

The International Refugee Organization is helping displaced persons of Europe to find new homes in foreign lands. An Economic Commission for Latin America, similar to the commission for Europe, has begun to make plans for the economic advancement of nations in the Western Hemisphere that lie south of the Rio Grande.

The work of these special commissions and agencies should not take our attention away from the major obstacles that lie ahead for the Security Council and for the General Assembly. These obstacles are really an outgrowth of the basic conflict between East and West. They are symbolized by Russia's frequent use of the veto in the Security Council, and by the sharp splits that take place in the General Assembly between the Communist nations, on the one hand, and the Western democracies, on the other.

These difficulties will be solved only when Russia and the Western powers have arrived at some workable understanding. Meanwhile, though, the tasks that the specialized agencies are carrying out are laying the foundation for international cooperation and peace—if and when East and West succeed in ironing out their differences.

Monaco, on the Mediterranean Sea, has a new ruler—Prince Rainier. The former Prince died recently. Monaco is one of the world's smallest kingdoms. It is closely associated with France, though it has been independent for 800 years.

Careers for Tomorrow -- General Summary

WEEK by week we have discussed vocations in these columns and have described the general nature of various occupations, together with wages, employment conditions and requirements for success. In this, the final issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for the school year, we shall offer a number of general suggestions relative to a student's choice of a vocation.

The following ten-point program is presented for the consideration of students who are giving thought to their future:

1. Do not make a choice of a life work with your eyes closed. Study the field of possible careers. Read as much as you can about the occupations in which you have developed an interest. Books may be obtained in the school or public library.

Talk with men or women who are engaged in the occupation you are considering. You can find out a great deal from them about the nature of the work and the advantages and disadvantages. Do not be too much discouraged, however, if some of them give you an unfavorable report. Many people are inclined to think that there are more problems connected with their own jobs than with any others.

Discuss wages, salaries and employment conditions with representatives of business organizations and labor unions in your community. Inquire at local employment agencies for facts. Do not neglect the want ads in your local newspaper. These ads will give you a fairly accurate picture of the compensations which various jobs offer.

2. Find a job which really appeals to you—something you will enjoy. A large proportion of one's time is spent

an occupation in keeping with your talents and special abilities, the prospect of continued advancement will be much greater.

4. Do not insist on a "white-collar" job unless you find one which is really promising and one for which you are fitted. There is a strong tendency among students to choose the professions as careers. As a result, most of the professions are overcrowded and do not offer good opportunities except for those who are especially well qualified.

5. Many high school students are debating the question of whether they should go to college in preparation for a career. This is a hard question to answer. It will help you in making your final decision to realize that a college is an institution of higher learning. If you like to learn, if you are studious in your habits, if you enjoy reading, if you have proved that you can stand high in scholarship, then you should make great sacrifices to go to college.

You should also go to college if you have talents that can be developed in that way. If you want to be a civil, mechanical, or electrical engineer, or if you wish to enter any one of a number of other professions where a college education is practically a necessity, you will, of course, plan to attend college.

It is a fact, though, that most occupations do not call for college training. It is a further fact that many students who do not care for intellectual work actually hinder their progress by college attendance. A college student who does not take an active interest in his studies is likely to get into the habit of dawdling or loafing, and this can easily produce permanent habits of laziness and shiftlessness.

On the whole, it can probably be said that it is a good thing to go to college if one can do it without too great a sacrifice. The young person who cannot go to college should not be discouraged, however, for a great many lines of work will still be open to him and he can, by his own studying and reading, obtain a substantial education outside college halls.

6. If you have some vocation in mind, stop to consider the training which will be required for such work. The lawyer or the doctor, for example, must go through a long, hard period of study. Does that appeal to you? Does your experience in school give you confidence that you could and would go through such a period? Take into account also the costs of training which are involved. If you have great confidence in your ability to do what will be required of you, you can afford to make many sacrifices, but be sure that you know just what is ahead of you.

7. If your mind is set on the career of your choice and if, after looking the field over, you are entirely satisfied with the vocation you have chosen, let nothing prevent you from going on toward your goal. Even though the occupation is crowded, it is a fact that "there is always room at the top."

8. Whatever your occupation may be, certain traits of character are essential to success. If you are unfailingly honest and thoroughly reliable, you will be much more likely to advance than if you lack these qualities. In

almost any kind of work friendliness is a decided asset. Industry is also a requirement not to be ignored.

It is an established fact that far more people fail at their jobs because of character defects than because they lack skill. This important fact has received too little attention.

9. Choose an occupation which will give you an opportunity to contribute to the public good as well as to serve your own interests. There are occupations which are inconsistent with



the public welfare. These should be avoided. Most recognized and lawful vocations offer an opportunity for service, though in varying degrees. The fields of teaching, health work, and government, for example, offer outstanding opportunities for public service.

10. Remember that you are now working at your first job—that of being a student. It is of great importance that you succeed in this position. Develop the qualities that make for excellence in the job at which you are now working.

There is such a thing as the habit of success. If you get into that habit while you are in school, you will not need to worry about your later career.

As a final pointer, we suggest that, where possible, students try to get summer jobs. Such jobs may not pay very much in the way of salary, but they will offer many other compensations. They will give students an opportunity to see whether or not they are qualified for certain types of work, and to see whether or not they like a given field. They will also afford young people a chance to learn at firsthand some of the problems they must soon meet as adults in the work-a-day world.

Tune In!

WHEN Morton Downey was a youth and opportunity knocked on his door, he wasted no time in answering the call. Morton's father, who was fire chief in their home town of Wallingford, Connecticut, did quite a bit of home entertaining and invariably Morton was called upon to sing. At one of these parties, a guest gave the eight-year-old boy \$5 for his work—and the die was cast. Morton decided then that he must sing.

Later he teamed up with a young accordionist and they performed at parties, church festivals, and other functions. The team enjoyed great success, until Downey's voice changed and he was out of business—at 15. He worked at several jobs before going to New York to sing again.

A friend of Paul Whiteman, the orchestra leader, heard Downey singing at a club in Brooklyn and asked him to audition for a singing job with Whiteman's band. Downey was an instant hit. He joined the band on the S. S. Leviathan and made the first of his nearly 30 Atlantic crossings.

The "Irish Thrush," as Downey was called then, began his radio career late in the 20's, and has been a top singing star ever since. He now has a television show on NBC, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings.

★ ★ ★

The famous orchestra of Guy Lombardo will take over the 7:30 p.m., EDT time spot Sundays on NBC beginning July 3, when Phil Harris and Alice Faye go on vacation. The "Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show" will return to this time period in the fall.

★ ★ ★

Radio and film star Jack Carson simply can't look another pie in the face. And on the face of it, you can't blame him.

During his recently concluded vaudeville tour across the country, Carson had 400 pies tossed at his handsome visage. The pie was the highlight of a skit titled "Stand-In," part of the Carson stage show, which was presented 400 times in the three-month trip. The skit was based on the punishment often endured by a movie stand-in for a leading man.

—By GEORGE EDSSEN.



TELEVISION is being used for instruction in some schools. A class in electricity, at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, gets the first of six weekly "video" lessons in the picture above.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Story of the Week

Big Four Meet Today

Today the Council of Foreign Ministers is convening at Paris in another attempt to unsnarl the problem of Germany. The meeting is expected to be the most important international conference in a number of years. Upon its outcome may hinge the course of Europe's history for generations to come.

Each of the Big Four delegations is headed by the nation's top man in foreign affairs. Secretary of State Dean Acheson leads the U. S. groups, while the other delegation heads are Foreign Ministers Ernest Bevin for Great Britain, Robert Schuman for France, and Andrei Vishinsky for Russia.

Among the major issues expected to be discussed are the possibility of a unified government for all Germany, the withdrawal of occupation troops, and the drawing up of a peace treaty for that country. The western powers and Russia both want these objectives, but they have never been able to agree on the issues involved in carrying them out.

The use of different kinds of currency in the Russian-occupied areas and in the regions occupied by the western powers is likely to be threshed out, too. Among other matters that may be placed before the conference are the amount of money and goods that Germany should be compelled to pay to the victor nations, the boundaries of the country, and the control of the Ruhr.

The Paris meeting marks the first time that the Council of Foreign Ministers has come together since December 1947. At that time the four-power group met in London, intending to take up the German problem, but the meeting ended in a stalemate with Russia and the western powers in complete disagreement.

Since that time, the western powers have gone ahead with the establishment of a West German republic, scheduled for this summer, and the political parties of West Germany have drawn up a constitution for the proposed new state. During this same period, a quarrel between Russia and the western powers led to the Berlin blockade. Did Russia's recent decision to lift this blockade mean that she is in a compromising mood toward the German problem, or will the present meeting in Paris, like the previous ones, end in a deadlock? That is the big question of the hour.

Patronage Issue

A spirited discussion is now going on concerning a recent statement of President Truman that no Congressman will be allowed to control the patronage in his district if he does not vote for the administration's legislative program.

Some Representatives and Senators have attacked the President for this remark. They say that a legislator should have the right to vote as he pleases, and that he should not be forced to support measures with which he does not agree.

Other Congressmen support Mr. Truman's stand. They argue that all political parties exist on the basis of discipline and if a member does not



VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCAST. The "Voice's" effectiveness abroad is shown by Russia's recent attempts to jam the programs beamed to Soviet territory. Appropriation bills now before Congress would provide funds for strengthening the broadcasts. The picture above shows American youths with a knowledge of foreign languages speaking to young people in other lands.

accept his party's program, he should be punished.

Under the patronage system, the administration gives out federal jobs in a given congressional district or state after consulting with the respective Representative or Senator. In this manner, legislators gain influence in the areas in which they live and build up political organizations of much power.

In the opinion of some observers, the patronage system is an essential part of our political life. Others argue that patronage is wrong and should be renounced by both political parties. According to this viewpoint, every public employee should be selected by competitive examinations and not by political influence.

U. S. of Europe?

Foreign observers are now studying the results of a recent conference in London, at which the representatives of 10 European countries agreed on a body of laws for a Council of Europe. The Council is to consist of two branches, a Committee of Ministers,

or cabinet, and a Consultative Assembly, or Parliament.

Under the London agreement, none of the participating countries will give up any of their sovereignty but they will try to find ways of working together more closely than before.

The Consultative Assembly will consist of unofficial representatives who will be free to vote as they see fit. The nations that have joined the Council are Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

In the opinion of many commentators, the Council of Europe cannot have any great influence so long as the participating countries retain their sovereignty. But it is believed that the Council may be a step forward in the direction of a United States of Europe—about which men have dreamed for hundreds of years.

Want A "Pen Pal"?

Last week we announced that THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and its associated publications are cooperating with

the International Friendship League in a program to encourage American students to correspond with boys and girls in foreign lands.

Since this paper is the last issue of the 1948-49 school year, we want to get in a final reminder to readers who want a foreign "pen pal" and have not already acted on last week's suggestions. By corresponding with a student in another land, you will learn a great deal about life in a foreign country. In turn, you will help the young person with whom you correspond to know what America is like. Such an exchange of views will go far toward creating international understanding.

We strongly urge our readers to participate in the program. Fill out the form that appeared on page 6 of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for May 16, and carry out the instructions that appeared there. On the form that we published last week, however, there was one important omission. We neglected to tell each student who writes to the International Friendship League for foreign names to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope in his letter.

Turkey's Problems

Turkey recently received its first shipment of Marshall Plan goods from the United States. It consisted largely of tractors, threshing machines, and other farm machinery. More equipment of this nature will be sent to Turkey soon, for many farmers there still use wooden plows and other primitive equipment.

Unlike most of the countries taking part in the European Recovery Program, Turkey is not faced with the problem of reconstruction. But even though the country was untouched by the late war, it nevertheless faces an urgent task—that of developing the nation's rural areas.

One of Turkey's outstanding problems is transportation. Oxen are the chief means of transport in the provinces. The country has no modern highways. What roads exist are poorly constructed and maintained. Many places in the interior still have no rail connections, and in no place is there a double-track railway. Where possible, the sea is used as a highway or street.

Indianapolis Classic

Next week 150,000 spectators are expected to flock to the Indianapolis Speedway to witness the 500-mile automobile race which, except for war years, has been an annual event since 1911. Thirty-three high-powered racing cars will start the Memorial Day grind that requires 200 circuits of the 2½-mile track. Mauri Rose, last year's record-breaking winner, maintained an average speed of more than 119 miles an hour for the distance.

Most people think of the Speedway event only as a thrilling sporting spectacle. Actually it has been an invaluable "proving ground" in the development of the modern motor car. Through the years many changes in tires, brakes, steering mechanisms, and engines were first made to meet the exacting demands of the Indian-

Invitation to Our Readers

In accordance with our schedule, subscriptions for the school year expire with this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. The paper, however, is published during the summer months, and we invite our readers to subscribe to it.

The summer subscription price, in clubs of five or more, is three and one-half cents per copy a week, or 40 cents for each subscription. Under five copies, each subscription is 50 cents, payable in advance. The summer period includes the issues of June, July, and the first two weeks of August.

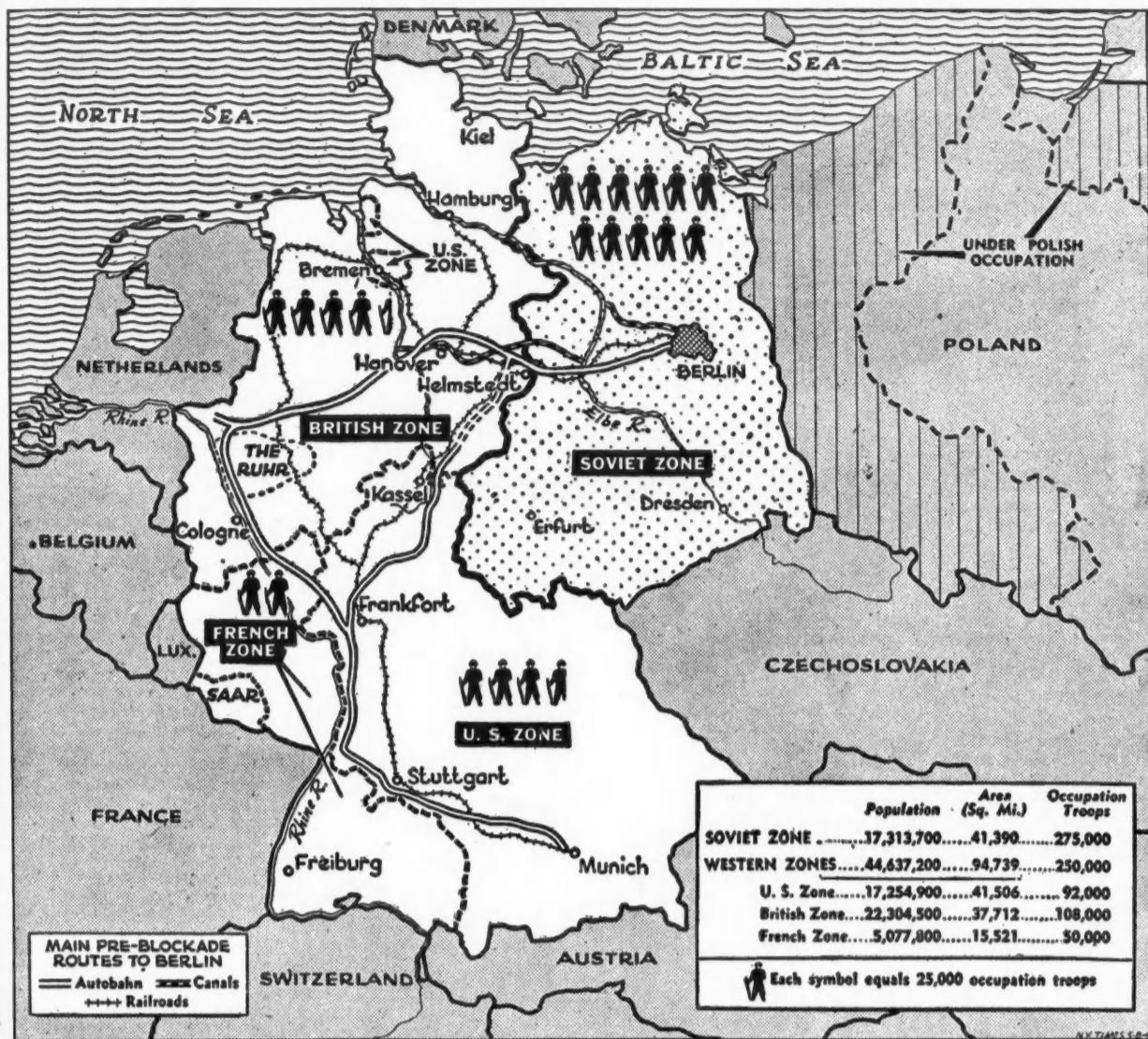
Meanwhile, teachers who have not already placed their tentative classroom orders for next fall may wish to do so. By ordering now, they will automatically receive their copies of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER at the beginning of the next school term, and they may then make any desired changes in their orders without cost.

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GERMANY'S FUTURE is the big question to be dealt with by representatives of the Big Four, who meet in Paris today

apolis racers. Once the changes had proved their value in the grueling 500-mile race, they frequently were incorporated in pleasure and business vehicles.

One common device invented at Indianapolis was the rear-view mirror. In the early days of auto racing, each car carried a mechanic, one of whose duties was to look back and warn the driver of oncoming vehicles. To do away with excess weight, Driver Ralph Harroun in 1911 eliminated the "passenger," and arranged a mirror to show what was to the rear. The makeshift device helped Harroun win the race. Today the rear-view mirror is, of course, a necessity on every car.

Cord—and later balloon—tires underwent severe tests in the Indianapolis classic before coming into general use. Lubricating systems and carburetors were also the subject of intensive racing research that later paid off in improvements for the average motorist. The development of improved cooling systems received great impetus from the urgent demands made by drivers in the annual Speedway race.

Fourth Round for Labor?

Will there be a "fourth round" of wage increases? Negotiations during the next month are expected to go far toward answering that question. Wage talks have already begun in some industries, and will start in others during the next few weeks. They will affect most workers in the automobile, steel, electrical and coal-mining industries—four of the nation's largest.

Up to now unions have based their postwar demands for wage increases on the fact that living costs were increasing. In recent months, these costs have gone down slightly and it appears that this year most unions will subordinate their demands for further wage increases to requests for welfare and pension funds.

The union leaders are putting forth the following arguments: "Workers need the security which pension plans will give them. Such plans will help business, too, for they will mean that the worker will continue to have money to spend even after he stops working. Thus, pensions will serve as a 'cushion' for our economy and will help ward off a depression. Most companies have been making large profits and can easily give pensions."

Management advances these views: "If pension plans are enacted, prices

will have to be raised to offset the added cost. This is no time for raising prices, for sales have been falling off in recent months. An upping of prices would cause further resistance among buyers. That, in turn, would mean fewer sales and would cause layoffs in the factories. The increasing unemployment would help to bring on a depression."

The "fourth round" gets its name from the number of general wage increases that have taken place since the end of World War II.

"Jamming" on the Air

In recent weeks, the Russian radio has been trying to interfere with the news broadcasts which our State Department's Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation "beam" to Russia each day. This in-

terference—or "jamming," as it is often called—has become especially bad since the news was announced that Russia had agreed to lift the Berlin blockade.

In the opinion of most Western observers, Russia has tried to keep Western news broadcasts out of its territory because it does not wish to have its people hear the story of the Berlin blockade from our point of view.

The Russians have been able to "jam" our short wave broadcasts to the Soviet Union by transmitting extremely loud noises on the same frequencies that we use. This prevents the Russian owners of short wave radio sets from hearing clearly either American or British broadcasts.

Your Vocabulary

The italicized words in the sentences below appeared recently in an issue of the Dallas Morning News. Match each italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 7, column 1.

1. The enthusiasm of the spectators was *unbridled* (un-bry'dəld). (a) moderate (b) noticeable (c) unexpected (d) unrestrained.

2. The *consensus* (kōn-sen'sus) was that the show was a success. (a) general opinion (b) critic's report (c) newspaper headline (d) early indicator.

3. The speakers gave *divergent* (di-vur'jənt) points of view. (a) similar (b) astonishing (c) differing (d) interesting.

4. The danger of war may *recede* (ree-seed'). (a) reappear (b) decline (c) disappear completely (d) remain.

5. The contract called for *arbitration* (ar-bi-tray'shun). (a) independent settlement by an impartial third party (b) settlement by the courts (c) settlement by discussions between labor and management (d) settlement by state law.

6. He *engendered* (en-jen'dered) confidence by the way he talked. (a) destroyed (b) increased (c) produced (d) showed.

7. It was a *spurious* (spew'ree-ous) argument. (a) sound (b) debatable (c) interesting (d) false.

8. The activities of the group were *circumscribed* (sur-kum-scribed'). (a) prohibited completely (b) restricted (c) permitted (d) encouraged.

9. A solution to the problem was *envisioned* (en-viz'ijd). (a) visualized (b) refused (c) introduced (d) made.



LEADING SPOKESMEN in the field of foreign affairs for the Big Four. They are opening discussions on the German problem in Paris today. Left to right they are: Dean Acheson of the United States, Ernest Bevin of Great Britain, Robert Schuman of France, and Andrei Vishinsky of Russia.

PHOTOS BY ACME



HE STILL has a long, hard haul

SOMERVILLE IN DENVER POST

U. S. Congress

(Concluded from page 1)

as much on ERP as Mr. Truman requested, did not actually provide the money. An *appropriation* law is needed for that purpose. There is a possibility that the amount actually appropriated and turned over to America's ERP agency, the Economic Cooperation Administration, will be less than the 5½ billion dollars called for in the preliminary measure which was passed last month.

North Atlantic Pact. This treaty, by which we agree to help the nations of Western Europe defend themselves against aggression, is before the Senate only. According to the U. S. Constitution, treaties are approved by a two-thirds vote in that body. The Senate is making a thorough study of the *pact*, but is expected eventually to approve it.

Then Congress will still have to decide whether the United States should send arms and military supplies to the European members of the pact. In this decision, of course, both houses will have a part.

Rent control law. This measure, passed at the end of March, is one of the few on which Congress has completed action. Its purpose is to extend, until the middle of 1950, federal regulation of rents charged by landlords. It provides, however, that state governments can remove federal rent controls from the areas under their supervision if they desire to do so. A local government, with the approval of the state governor, can do likewise.

Labor legislation. This subject involves one of the major issues in the Presidential campaign of 1948. President Truman bitterly attacked the Taft-Hartley law, which was enacted in 1947 and is still in effect. During the present session of Congress, he

has sought the repeal of that measure. Labor unions have strongly supported the President's efforts to get rid of the Taft-Hartley law, for they regard it as an "anti-labor" measure. They oppose, for example, its ban on "closed shop" agreements—contracts in which employers promise to hire only union members. Also strongly disliked by labor leaders is the Taft-Hartley provision which permits the federal government to obtain court orders to delay strikes that would "imperil national health or safety."

Employers, in general, support the Taft-Hartley act. They feel that, for a number of years before its passage, the federal government was partial to labor. The Taft-Hartley measure, they contend, is fair both to labor and management.

Many members of Congress, along with President Truman, have favored wiping out nearly all provisions of the Taft-Hartley act. Others want to keep this present law with little or no change. Some favor a compromise.

It is impossible, as this article is written, to tell what the outcome of the three-way struggle will be.

Federal aid to education. Early this month the Senate passed a measure which would provide federal financial aid for schools. The House, as we go to press, has not yet voted on the bill.

Under its terms, the U. S. government would give the states money for use in the field of education. A number of wealthy states are scheduled to get only \$5 per school-age youth. States in greater need would receive larger amounts, up to about \$30 per person of school age. This federal aid program is strongly advocated by President Truman.

Health. A number of important bills concerning health and medical care have been introduced during the present session. President Truman is supporting a plan to provide compulsory health insurance for all workers and dependents who are covered under the U. S. Social Security system. Wage

and salary earners and their employers would make regular payments to the government. The workers and their families could then obtain complete medical, surgical, hospital, and dental care at government expense.

Advocates of this plan say that it would insure families against unexpected hospital and doctor bills heavier than they can bear. According to opponents, it would give the government too much power over the medical profession, and it would place too heavy a burden upon the nation's doctors by encouraging people to seek more medical care than is necessary.

Neither the Senate nor House has voted upon this measure, and it is regarded as practically certain that the health insurance program will not be enacted at this session of Congress. Some other health proposals, however, have a better chance. Measures may be passed providing federal funds to promote medical research, the building of hospitals, and the training of doctors. The U. S. lawmakers may also vote to give the states money with which to provide medical care for people with low incomes.

Housing. The Senate passed a housing bill late last month. The measure, which has President Truman's support, provides loans and grants totaling 1½ billion dollars to aid in local slum-clearance projects. It also authorizes the use of federal funds to aid in the building of more than 800,000 low-rent homes during the next six years. The House of Representatives is expected to vote on this measure before long.

Social Security. Measures have been introduced, along the line of President Truman's proposals, to "broaden and deepen" the present U. S. Social Security program. Under these measures, the number of workers included in the system would be greatly increased, and larger benefits would be paid to those who qualify for them.

A few months ago it seemed likely that Congress would enact these Social Security changes. There has de-

veloped, however, a great deal of opposition to the increased government expenditures which they would require.

Governmental reorganization. The House of Representatives has passed a bill which would enable the President to make important changes in the organization of the government's executive branch. Action on the measure has not yet been completed in the Senate as we go to press. Until such a bill becomes law, President Truman cannot put into full effect the reorganization suggestions which a special commission, headed by ex-President Herbert Hoover, recently made.

Farm legislation. President Truman's administration has requested Congressional action to protect the farmers against receiving low prices for their products. Farm prices have dropped considerably from wartime or early postwar peaks.

U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan is advocating some complicated measures which are intended to protect the farmers' incomes, and to deal with the closely related problem of agricultural surpluses. His program is being sharply debated in Congress.

Civil rights. Several bills, containing President Truman's civil rights program, await consideration. If passed, they would make lynching a federal offense; prohibit the poll tax which, in certain states, keeps many Negroes and poor white people from voting; and create a "Fair Employment Practices Commission" to investigate complaints that persons are unable to obtain jobs because of race, color, or creed.

Several other provisions concerning the treatment of minority groups are included in the civil rights bills. They are not expected to receive the approval of Congress during the present session, although administration leaders have not given up their fight to have most of the program enacted into law.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Judge: "Have you anything to offer the court before sentence is passed on you?"

Prisoner: "No, your honor, my lawyer took my last dollar."

★ ★ ★

Smart Guy: "I haven't slept for days." Dupe: "Insomnia?" Smart Guy: "No, I sleep at nights."

★ ★ ★

"My wife has a queer way of getting even with the telephone company," Brown confided to a friend. "She uses my car to knock down its poles."

★ ★ ★

A very nice old lady had a few words to say to her granddaughter. "My dear," said she, "I wish you would do something for me. I wish you would promise me never to use two words. One is swell and the other is lousy. Would you promise me that?"

"Why sure," said the girl. "What are the words?"

★ ★ ★

Backward, turn backward,
O Time, in your flight,
And tell me just one thing
I studied last night!

★ ★ ★

Father: "The man who marries my daughter will get a prize." Suitor: "May I see it, please?"

"Did he take his misfortunes like a man?"

"Yes, he laid the blame on his wife."

★ ★ ★

Counsel was cross-questioning a witness in an important case. He asked: "And on the 11th of July you say you called upon Mrs. Murphy. Now what did she say?"

"I object, your honor, to the question," interrupted the opposing lawyer. Then ensued an hour's fierce argument between counsel; and in the end the judge allowed the question.

"And as I was saying," continued the first lawyer, "what did Mrs. Murphy say?"

"Nothing," was the reply. "She was out."



"Get busy on the other tables, Fenwick. I don't care how lavishly he tips!"

Study Guide

Congress

1. Name two important foreign policy measures placed before Congress during this session.
2. Briefly describe the rent control law which was recently passed.
3. Tell of some Taft-Hartley act provisions that labor unions strongly oppose. What do employers, in general, think of the Taft-Hartley law?
4. Which parts of the proposed federal health program are most likely to be passed during the present session of Congress?
5. Briefly describe the bill that would provide federal aid for education.
6. List some other important measures before Congress.

Discussion

1. Name several measures which the present Congress has been considering and which, in your opinion, should be enacted. Explain your position.
2. List some bills which, in your opinion, should not be passed. Give reasons for your answers.

United Nations

1. What are two recent major accomplishments attributed to the United Nations?
2. Why are the specialized agencies and other subdivisions of the UN felt to be of such great importance?
3. Discuss briefly the work of the Commission on Human Rights.
4. List some of the jobs that the World Health Organization has undertaken.
5. What is the chief task of the UN's Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization?
6. What is the meaning of the word genocide? What agreement has the Genocide Committee of the Economic and Social Council drawn up for ratification by UN members?
7. Discuss the work of one UN agency other than those named in the questions above.

Discussion

1. On the basis of its accomplishments, what do you think of the UN and what do you think of its possibilities for success? Explain your position.
2. Which of the specialized agencies or subdivisions of the UN do you think is doing the most interesting work? Give your reasons.

Miscellaneous

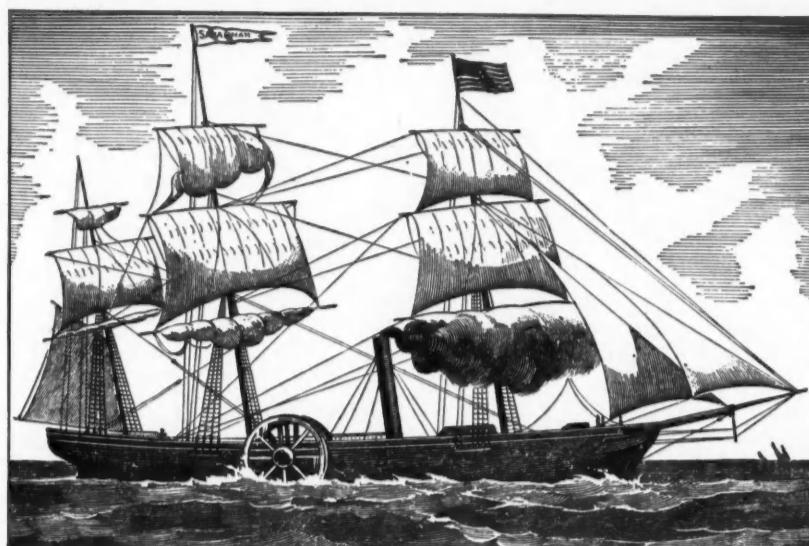
1. List several issues that probably will be discussed at the Big Four meeting in Paris.
2. Why did the United States fail to build up its merchant marine before World War I?
3. What purpose, outside the field of sports, is served by the annual Indianapolis Speedway races?
4. Describe Turkey's transportation facilities.
5. Why, in the opinion of Western observers, has the Soviet Union been stepping up her efforts to "jam" British and American broadcasts of news to the Russian people?
6. What recent event has thrown a spotlight on the subject of political patronage?
7. Briefly describe the new Council of Europe.

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Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (d) unrestrained; 2. (a) general opinion; 3. (c) differing; 4. (b) decline; 5. (a) independent settlement by an impartial third party; 6. (c) produced; 7. (d) false; 8. (b) restricted; 9. (a) visualized.



THE SAVANNAH—the first steam-driven ship to cross the Atlantic

Historical Backgrounds

Merchant Marine

JUST 130 years ago yesterday a strange-looking ship set out from the harbor of Savannah, Georgia, on a voyage to England. It was not like any ship the people of that city had ever seen before. It was a sailing vessel, and yet it was not, for between its masts there was a large funnel from which poured clouds of black smoke.

The ship was the *Savannah*, a sailing ship which had been equipped with steam engines. During most of the trip to Liverpool, which took 25 days, it had to use its sails because it could not carry enough coal to keep its engines running continuously. But the voyage made by the *Savannah* marked the beginning of a new era in the history of ocean travel.

The anniversary of the beginning of that voyage, May 22, 1819, is now celebrated in the United States as Maritime Day. On that day we pay tribute to our merchant fleet and recall proudly the many achievements in shipbuilding and ocean voyaging that have been made by Americans.

Since the earliest days, our land has been noted for its skill in building fast, sturdy ships. Shipbuilding, during colonial times, was one of the chief industries in North America. Just before the war for independence there were, in northern New England, more people engaged in building and navigating ships than there were in any other occupation.

Great Britain came to fear the colonies' growing strength at sea, and took measures to discourage the construction of ships in America. But the colonists resisted these efforts, and the industry continued to thrive.

Colonial merchant ships played an important part in winning the Revolutionary War. They not only carried supplies to the colonies, but also helped to defeat the British fleet. The colonists had few warships. Merchantmen, armed with guns, took part in the battles at sea. The privateers, as they were called, accounted for about three-fourths of the British ships that were seized and sunk by the Americans.

After the war, the new government aided the country's shipbuilding industry and it continued to expand. While the steamship was developed rather early, it was not to take command of the seas for some time. In the meantime, a new American vessel arose to challenge the shipping of

other nations—the fast "clipper ship."

This long, sleek craft, with towering masts and graceful sails, could outdistance the fastest ships of its day. Clippers made record speeds on the long voyage around the tip of South America to California and the Orient. One of the swiftest, the *Lightning*, sailed 436 miles in a single day, setting a record that still stands.

As time passed, however, improvements in steam-driven craft brought an end to the era of sailing ships. Iron and steel replaced wood in ship construction and with other improvements made ships faster, safer, and larger.

Despite our ability in ship construction, our merchant fleet declined, and we began to take a back seat among the shipping nations of the world. This was largely because we found that it was cheaper to ship our cargo in foreign vessels than to use American craft whose high standards made operating costs too great. But two world wars compelled us to revive our merchant fleet.

During the first World War, American shipbuilders constructed a fleet of "Liberty Ships" which made excellent records in transporting troops and carrying supplies and ammunition through the submarine-infested waters of the Atlantic.

By far the most spectacular growth in our merchant shipping occurred during World War II. The production records of American shipyards amazed the rest of the world. So many ships were built in such a short time that, when the fighting ended, we owned more than three-fifths of all the world's cargo and passenger ships.

Although American shipping has declined somewhat since the end of the war, it still holds a leading position. Where it stands in the future will depend upon how strenuously our nation competes in world shipping.

—By AMALIE ALVEY.

The Mississippi River may regain its position as one of the country's great arteries of commerce. An increase in activity is due chiefly to large numbers of industrial plants that are being built along the river. These factories find it cheaper to ship their products by water than by rail or truck. Some companies far up the river now send their products by water to New Orleans and from there, they are transported by ocean-going vessels.

Science News

ENORMOUS snails are the latest pest to invade the U. S. Originally from Africa, the huge snails have migrated to many other lands. It is believed that the snail eggs were brought to this country from Tinian Island on army vehicles.

With a shell that sometimes measures more than five inches in length, these creatures multiply rapidly and devour everything green in their path. Scientists are making a study of the snails' habits and natural enemies in Africa so that a means of fighting the invaders can be devised.

★ ★ ★

Two new coal-to-oil plants at Louisiana, Missouri, the first of their kind in the U. S., are producing high grade automobile and aviation gasoline, diesel oil, heating oil and fuel oil—all from coal. This country has an ample supply of coal, and if the new fuels can be produced in large quantities, the U. S. can make its supplies of petroleum last longer.

★ ★ ★

On the edge of the desert in Australia, geologists recently discovered a giant hole which may prove to be a meteor crater nearly as large as the famous one in Arizona. The huge cavity is about half a mile wide and its rocky rim rises almost 100 feet above the surrounding land.

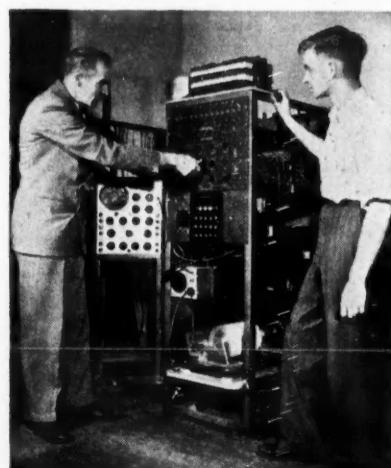
Geologists thought at first that the crater might have been caused by a volcano. However, since the hole is situated in flat land, and there is no sign of a volcanic cone, it is now believed that a meteor caused the depression.

★ ★ ★

Radar, which played such an important role in the war, is now being adapted to many peacetime uses. Sardine boats find the electronic device helpful for locating nets in bad weather, and tow-boats for barges are guided by radar on rivers during heavy fogs.

Another new use is for checking the speed of motorists on highways. The amount of rain which falls in an area—information useful in flood control work—is checked by radar. Soon radar may warn of approaching thunderstorms, and it performs a valuable service, of course, in the field of aviation.

—By DOROTHY ADAMS.



WIDE WORLD

ELECTRONIC "BRAIN." Scientists at the University of California have developed an electronic brain that is simpler and more compact than such instruments developed elsewhere.

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